

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT IMMEDIATE

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S E C R E T STATE 118432 TOSEC 010132

NODIS

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM ATHNS 21 MAY.

QUOTE: S E C R E T ATHENS 3738

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR TU CY

SUBJ: MESSAGE FROM BITSIOS

REF A. ATHENS 3736 B. ATHENS 3706 C. STATE 117141 (SECTO 1035)

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO THE SECRETARY

FOR THE SECRETARY

1. DURING THE COURSE OF MY MEETING LAST NIGHT WITH STAVROPOULOS (REF A) I CONVEYED TO HIM YOUR ORAL MESSAGE TO BITSIOS, REFTEL C. I TOLD STAVROPOULOS THAT I ALSO WANTED TO SPEAK TO BITSIOS PERSONALLY AS SOON AS HE CONVENIENTLY COULD TALK TO ME AFTER HIS RETURN FROM ROME IN ORDER TO GET HIS PERSONAL REACTION TO HIS ROME MEETING WITH CAGLAYANGIL.

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WM BITSIOS ARRIVED BACK IN ATHENS LATE LAST NIGHT--THUS AVOIDING LAST NIGHT'S WORKING SESSION AND DINNER WITH HATTERSLEY--AND TELEPHONED ME AT HOME, SINCE HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE NO CHANCE TO SEE ME THIS MORNING BEFORE GETTING INVOLVED IN THE REMAINDER OF HATTERSLEY'S VISIT.

3. BITSIOS SAID TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE WHICH HE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED. HE SAID TO TELL YOU THAT--IN A WORD--THE ATMOSPHERE IN ROME WAS "GOOD" BUT THAT THE RESULTS WERE "NEGATIVE".

4. ON CYPRUS, CAGLAYANGIL EXPLAINED TO HIM PRIVATELY AND IN GREAT DETAIL THAT "INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES" IN TURKEY MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM (CAGLAYANGIL) TO MAKE A PROPOSAL FOR A SETTLEMENT. HE ASKED BITSIOS TO OUTLINE A GREEK PROPOSAL AND THEN HE WOULD SEE WHAT HE COULD DO BACK IN ANKARA TO GET IT CONSIDERED. BITSIOS SAID HE TOLD CAGLAYANGIL THAT HE WAS UNWILLING TO SUBSTITUTE THEIR BILATERAL TALKS FOR THE CLERIDES-DENKTASH NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA AND THAT IN ANY CASE, HE (BITSIOS) COULD NOT SPEAK FOR THE "CYPRIOTS". HOWEVER, BITSIOS SAID, HE TOLD CAGLAYANGIL THAT AS A MINIMUM THE TWO PRINCIPLES ON WHICH A SETTLEMENT HAD TO REST WAS SOME RELIEF AND REHABILITATION FOR THE REFUGEES ON THE ISLAND, AND A SET OF ECONOMIC CONDITIONS THAT WOULD ALLOW THEIR CONTINUED LIFE AND SURVIVAL. BITSIOS SAID THAT HE DECLINED TO TRY AND TRACE ON A MAP THE TERRITORIAL LINES FOR A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. CAGLAYANGIL TOLD BITSIOS THAT HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH THE TOP TURKISH LEADERSHIP ON MAY 24 AND THAT HE WOULD CONVEY TO HIM GREEK VIEWS ABOUT A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. BITSIOS SAID HE REALLY SAW NO SIGN WHATEVER FROM CAGLAYANGIL OF THE EVENTUAL TURKISH INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO A SETTLEMENT.

5. ON THE AEGEAN, PROBLEM, BITSIOS SAID THAT CAGLAYANGIL PRETENDED THERE HAD BEEN A "COMPLETE MISUNDERSTANDING" AND THAT HE WAS UNPREPARED TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF A DRAFT "COMPROMIS" TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE ICJ. IN THE END, HOWEVER, CAGLAYANGIL AGREED TO ACCEPT BITSIOS' DRAFT, TO CONSIDER IT, AND TO DISCUSS IT WITH HIM AGAIN THE END OF NEXT WEEK IN BRUSSELS.

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YM ON THE FLIGHT INFORMATION REGIONS IN THE AEGEAN, BITSIOS SAID THAT HE AND CAGLAYANGIL HAD AGREED TO SET UP A "COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS" TO CONSIDER THE PROBLEMS AND THAT "SOMETHING COULD DEVELOP HERE".

7. BITSIOS SAID THAT CAGLAYANGIL HAD CHASTISED HIM ABOUT THE CONTINUING GREEK EFFORTS TO "INTERNATIONALIZE" PROBLEMS

THAT EXISTED BILATERALLY BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY AND ON CYPRUS. BITSIOS SAID HE TOLD CAGLAYANGIL THAT GREECE HAD DECIDED NOT TO FIGHT TURKEY OVER CYPRUS AND TO DO ITS UTMOST TO AVOID HOSTILITIES ELSEWHERE. THEREFORE, GIVEN TURKISH PROVOCATIVE AND INTRANSIGENT POSITIONS, GREECE HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO MOUNT A MAJOR "DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE" AGAINST TURKEY.

8. BITSIOS SAID TO TELL YOU THAT CAGLAYANGIL WAS "VERY KEEN" TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY HAD "WARM AND SUCCESSFUL TALKS" IN ROME. HOWEVER, HE SAID, HE WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT HE HIMSELF WAS "DISAPPOINTED" AND THAT THERE WERE "NO POSITIVE RESULTS" IN ANY FIELD. THEREFORE, BITSIOS SAID, THERE REMAINS A "LARGE FIELD" IN WHICH YOU MIGHT TRY YOUR HAND WHEN YOU ARE IN ANKARA LATER THIS WEEK. BITSIOS SAID TO TELL YOU THAT HE CONSIDERED CAGLAYANGIL PERSONALLY TO BE "MODERATE AND FLEXIBLE", BUT THAT HIS ASSESSMENT WAS THAT CAGLAYANGIL WAS IN "AN EXTREMELY WEAK POSITION" IN TURKEY.

9. BITSIOS ALSO SAID TO TELL YOU THAT CARAMANLIS WAS FURIOUS WITH MONDAY'S LEMONDE INTERVIEW WITH DEMIREL. HE SAID THAT HE AND OTHERS HAD BEEN TRYING TO SOOTH CARAMANLIS EVER SINCE IT APPEARED IN AN EFFORT TO HEAD OFF SOME KIND OF COUNTER-BLAST FROM CARAMANLIS AGAINST DEMIREL AND TURKEY. BITSIOS SAID THAT NO DEFINITE ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE AS YET FOR DEMIREL AND CARAMANLIS TO MEET PRIVATELY IN BRUSSELS, BUT HE GAVE ME THE IMPRESSION THAT CARAMANLIS HAD EVERY EXPECTATION OF DOING SO AT SOME POINT.

10. HE ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO YOU ONCE AGAIN HIS "VERY SINCERE THANKS" FOR YOUR MESSAGE AND EFFORTS TO BE HELPFUL. KUBISCH UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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